

KAPPA ALPHA THETA *Magazine*

Founders Day 2024

Genuine, unconditional support
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10 Questions

Get to know Theta
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'Tis the season for giving
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Every Step of the Way

BY: ISABELLA MARKOVSKI-DICKEY | ALPHA/DEPAUW



The holiday season is here, half the academic year has gone by, and Founders Day is quickly approaching. This transitional time between seasons brings with it the dichotomy of reminiscing and making new memories and traditions. It can signify both nostalgia and future intention.

I believe that Theta exists in the intersection of these two ideas. It comes naturally to recount a memory from college while gathering with sisters, sending a text message, or chuckling to yourself remembering the details. What we should remember, though, is an important note: Theta is for a lifetime. Just because I graduated in 2015 doesn't mean I was a Theta. I am a Theta still. Theta is simply a thread in the fabric of our lives, just as much a part of you today as it was the day you experienced initiation. Your membership in Theta as an alumna is what you make of it. Maybe

that means you're satisfied with the simple chuckle at a memory, and that's fine! But part of what makes our sisterhood so strong is current members articulating to the world what Theta is, what it means, and how it enriches their adult lives.

I wonder what would happen if you decided to show up as a mentor in ThetaConnect to a younger Theta. I wonder what might come of sharing your Theta stories with a potential member or facilitating a trip to your alma mater's campus (and maybe even the Theta house/gathering space). I wonder what could be possible if you reach out to a sister who hasn't been engaged with Theta in her alumna life, bring her to a Founders Day or alumnae chapter event, and remind her of her inherent connection to this beloved organization.

Everything in life ebbs and flows. Everything serves us differently at different stages, phases, and ages. One thing is certain: Theta is here for you in whatever way you need it every step of the way.

Bella

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- Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity, founded at Indiana Asbury College (DePauw University), Greencastle, Indiana, on Jan. 27, 1870, is the first Greek-letter fraternity for women.
- "Kappa Alpha Theta," "Theta," its coat of arms, its badges, and the Leading Woman logo are registered trademarks of Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity.
- Because Kappa Alpha Theta is not an officially recognized student organization at Duke, Santa Clara, Georgetown, and Harvard, these schools prohibit using their names in any published reference to our Beta Rho, Eta Lambda, Theta Iota, or Zeta Xi Chapters. We designate those chapters with a tilde (~).
- While some terms used in telling members' stories and personal experiences are not currently in use, they were accurate at the time of these members' college experiences.



▲ Delta Omega/Texas A&M

MAINTAINING CONNECTIONS

Each college chapter (active and inactive) has an alumnae contact officer (ACO). It is this volunteer's responsibility to ensure that all the women from her chapter remain connected to Theta. She does this by finding lost Thetas: women for whom we no longer have a current address.

Technology has made the duties of this volunteer position easy to do from anywhere in the world. In fact, we have ACOs living in El Salvador and Germany! You can also be an ACO for a chapter other than your chapter of initiation. If you think this might be the volunteer role for you, check out the vacancies below and email volunteerengagement@kappaalphatheta.org.

Xi/Wesleyan
 Alpha Delta/Goucher
 Alpha Kappa/Adelphi
 Beta Sigma/SMU
 Beta Phi/Penn State
 Zeta Rho/UC San Diego
 Eta Lambda/~
 Eta Mu/Occidental
 Eta Nu/Lake Forest
 Eta Omicron/North Florida
 Theta Lambda/Rochester
 Theta Mu/Mines

THE AMPLIFYING SORORITY CAMPAIGN

The Foundation for Fraternal Excellence (FFE), an organization Kappa Alpha Theta has supported and partnered with for many years, exists to support organizations and individuals invested in developing the next generation of sorority and fraternity leaders. FFE executes initiatives and programs to advance the fraternal movement.

Like all of us, FFE knows the value of the sorority experience: it provides an opportunity and environment for members to form lifelong friendships; work alongside others with differing viewpoints, backgrounds, and lived experiences; build confidence in a supportive environment; make a difference in their communities; and cultivate leadership and professional skills. Hoping to keep the sorority experience relevant and present today and in years to come, FFE is launching the Amplifying Sorority Campaign this year, a campaign to fund research projects that will study both immediate and future industry challenges and opportunities.

The campaign has two priorities:

1. Conduct at least 10 research projects from 2023 to 2026 that will identify how best to position and market the value of the sorority experience, prove the value and relevance of the sorority experience, and identify barriers and guide strategy to increase membership retention, among other outcomes surrounding the alumnae experience, mental health, and preparing organizations for future generational challenges.
2. Provide actionable recommendations, messaging, toolkits, and conversation points for research results to apply the data and share findings with stakeholders.

We are thrilled to share that Theta Foundation and the Fraternity have each committed \$25,000 to FFE's Amplifying Sorority Campaign, and we are eager to collect information and data that only solidify what we know about Theta membership: Being a Theta means personal, professional, and educational support; a supportive, uplifting community; and bonds of sisterhood that last a lifetime.



▲ Epsilon Iota/Westminster



▲ Gamma Pi/Iowa State

KAΘ FOUNDERS DAY 2024

In last year's message, I focused on being back together again. Last year's message underscored the need for togetherness, connection, and unconditional acceptance of ourselves and our sisters, particularly after such challenging years we all endured. This past year has only strengthened my belief in that message.

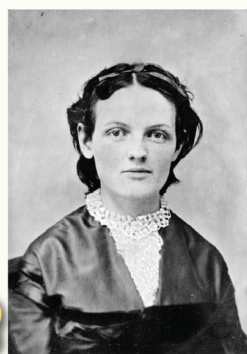
There are many things I expected when stepping into the role of Fraternity president, amongst them

collaborating with staff and volunteers to advance our mission, engaging with members daily on a variety of topics, and representing Theta for the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) and our host institutions. I did not expect to witness so deeply the love and support our members have for one another in a sister's time of urgent need. I did not know, until I was president, that our sisters are

genuinely watching over each other, be it in times of personal trial, natural disaster, or circumstances even more unimaginable. This is what I have witnessed over the last year while administering the Friendship Fund.

The Friendship Fund is an incredibly special program. Established in 1926, the Fund provides gifts to Thetas experiencing extreme financial hardships due to

serious or terminal illness, job loss, natural disaster, and other devastating occurrences. One very important aspect of the Fund is the secrecy surrounding the giving of gifts: two members write letters on behalf of a sister and the Friendship Fund committee determines the gift amount. The requesters remain anonymous to the member in need, and all records are confidential.



Bettie Locke Hamilton



Alice Allen Brant

Having no direct exposure to the Friendship Fund prior to being president, I did not know the level of need our members typically experienced. About six months into my term, the committee shared with me that the request for need was greater than in recent years. We issued a call for additional Friendship Fund donations, and of course, you answered.

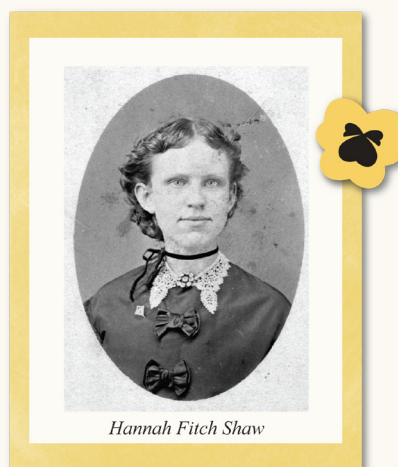
In October 2022, in lieu of the usual content that would have appeared in the Autumn 2022 alumnae newsletter, Director of Alumnae Engagement Liz Drake, Beta/Indiana, wrote a simple ask: Considering Hurricane Ian's devastation, would recipients of the message consider donating any amount to the Friendship Fund to help our sisters in need? From the day that message was sent—Oct. 7, 2022—through Dec. 31, 2022, \$22,267 was donated to the Friendship Fund. In barely three months, Thetas gave



more than \$22,000 to help other Thetas. Thetas they may not know, nor ever meet.

We all know the potential love, friendship, and support that membership in Kappa Alpha Theta brings to our lives. It is likely that no one knows this better than recipients of the Friendship Fund.

When Thetas need help, Thetas are there. It's as simple as that. It is that spirit that has allowed Theta to thrive to this day. It is that loving, unconditional support that makes me so proud to belong to this organization. It is my hope that we continue this kind of support in 2024 and beyond.



Happy Founders Day, Thetas.

Erica Ochs
Erica D'Angelo Ochs
Fraternity President



TIME IS OF THE *Essence*

KATHY BRUNING BUSSING, KAPPA/KANSAS, ENDOWED A SCHOLARSHIP WITH THETA FOUNDATION LAST YEAR. SHE INITIALLY PLANNED TO ESTABLISH THE SCHOLARSHIP WITH A BEQUEST—MEANING A GIFT MADE AS PART OF A WILL OR TRUST—BUT SHE CHANGED HER MIND AND DECIDED TO ACT ON IT SOONER. KATHY CREDITS MUCH OF HER PERSONAL SUCCESSES TO HER THETA MEMBERSHIP, AND SHE IS GRATEFUL TO BE IN A POSITION TO HELP OTHERS ALONG THE WAY.

Throughout our lives, there are events we are told we will remember forever. Pledging Kappa Alpha Theta at the University of Kansas is one of those.

First, I did not intend to pledge Theta. My older brother was pinned to the president of another sorority. This woman was also president of the Association of Women Students on campus and a favorite of the Dean of Women. I was welcomed at that sorority house as an old friend. But throughout rush, I kept coming back to where I felt most comfortable. It was with much trepidation that I called my brother to tell him I would be pledging Theta. To my surprise, he was ecstatic! I was thrilled to have his unconditional support.

Thanks to my Theta sisters, I was introduced to new activities and friends on campus that I never would have had the courage or opportunity to join or seek out on my own. And that continued through graduate school, marriage, having children, and moving within and out of state.

So, why establish a scholarship now and not after my death? First, I have been on one of the committees that reviews scholarship applications for Theta Foundation for several years now. I am inspired and impressed by what today's young women are accomplishing while still maintaining the high academic aspirations that Kappa Alpha Theta is known for.

Second, a college education has become so very expensive today. Even in 1971, graduate school tuition was beyond my financial capabilities. Over the next 15 years, I worked, married, and had children, but I never gave up my dream to become a lawyer.

Finally, with the encouragement of my husband and friends, I completed a master's degree and law degree. When I applied for my first job in the field of law, I received plenty of questions, such as, "Why now?"

THE REAL QUESTION IS, "WHY NOT NOW?"

So, why establish my Theta Foundation scholarship now? The real question is, "Why NOT now?"

You can read more about the Kathryn Bruning Bussing Scholarship, and other Theta Foundation scholarships, in the Scholarships Directory on the Theta website: www.kappaalphatheta.org/foundation/scholarships-grants/scholarships-directory.



Donations to Theta Foundation empower Thetas to become their best selves. Every gift makes a difference for Thetas seeking to further their education, enhance their professional skills, attend leadership opportunities, or positively influence their communities.

You still have time to make an impact with a year-end donation before Dec. 31! Our annual giving societies recognize these gift levels:

Founders Society-Silver:
\$250 and \$499 annually

Founders Society-Gold:
\$500 and \$999 annually

Presidents Circle-Silver:
\$1,000 and \$2,499 annually

Presidents Circle-Gold:
\$2,500 or more annually



Simply scan this QR code to easily make your gift.

Check donations can be sent to:

Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation
8740 Founders Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46268

Thank you for including Theta Foundation in your year-end giving plans. Your investment shows Thetas everywhere that their dreams can be real and their goals are achievable.



10

TJ FLYNN CONDON
EPSILON LAMBDA/DICKINSON

TEN
QUESTIONS
WITH ONE
THETA

TJ FLYNN CONDON, EPSILON LAMBDA/DICKINSON, HAS SERVED THETA FOUNDATION AS FOUNDATION PRESIDENT SINCE 2020. SHE HAS VOLUNTEERED FOR THETA IN NUMEROUS CAPACITIES IN THE PAST, SUCH AS THETA FOUNDATION TRUSTEE, MEMBER OF VARIOUS FOUNDATION AND FRATERNITY COMMITTEES, AND ADVISOR ROLES FOR SEVERAL DIFFERENT COLLEGE CHAPTERS. TJ'S COMMITMENT TO EPSILON LAMBDA CHAPTER AND KAPPA ALPHA THETA AS A WHOLE IS INSPIRING, AND WE'RE HONORED SHE FOUND THE TIME TO ANSWER OUR 10 QUESTIONS.

1. WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT THE THETA FOUNDATION PRESIDENT ROLE?

My favorite thing about this role is delivering joy by helping donors see the positive impact they make on a sister, a child, or in the world through their generosity. I love working with such incredible staff members, including the phenomenal Kelley Hurst (Theta Foundation's executive director), the wonderful Foundation Board of Trustees, and immeasurably dedicated volunteers.

2. WHAT'S ONE THING THAT REALLY MAKES YOUR DAY?

Giving an unexpectedly kind or encouraging word is something I cherish. When I notice something special, I can't stop myself from blurting out my appreciation, very often to strangers.

3. WHAT DO YOU VALUE IN YOUR FRIENDS?

I value reliability, kindness, their acceptance of my (many) faults, and making me laugh until I snort.

4. CATS, DOGS, OR HOUSE PLANTS?

Cats. Times a million.

5. WHAT'S A QUALITY OR SKILL OF YOURS THAT DISTINGUISHES YOU OR THAT YOU'RE MOST PROUD OF?

I'm good at taking on a seemingly insurmountable challenge and then making it achievable by breaking it down into parts, laying out a detailed plan, and getting people excited to play a part in the project's success. It is a skill that has served me well at work, in life, and through many years of volunteering.

6. TELL US ABOUT A LIFE LESSON YOU'VE LEARNED, OR SOMETHING YOU KEEP CLOSE TO YOUR MIND AND HEART AS YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE.

Something people will hear me say a lot is, "Everyone has their gifts." Every person has talents, skills, and something generally wonderful to offer the world. Great leaders help people discover these gifts and contribute them to the widest influence for good.

7. "LOOKING AT ME, NO ONE WOULD GUESS"

Despite being an introvert, you will find no one more willing to go on a karaoke date than me.

8. WHAT'S YOUR GUILTY PLEASURE?

I enjoy turning off my phone and spending several uninterrupted, unstructured hours with my Kindle. The guilty part would be the genre: paranormal romance fiction. What's not to love about books that feature a vampire, both a foodie and medieval literature student, who is saving humanity, aided by her wits and some formidable katana skills?

9. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THETA MEMORY SO FAR?

This harkens back to question five. Years ago, I was asked to be co-recruitment chair during a particularly challenging period in Epsilon Lambda Chapter's (my college chapter of initiation) history. That bid day, when we welcomed the new member class into the chapter, my heart just about exploded when I saw their joy in finding a home in Theta. I was asked to speak at Epsilon Lambda Chapter's 40th anniversary celebration in 2022, and that brought this all full circle for me.

10. WHAT DOES THE CONCEPT OF "WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN" MEAN TO YOU?

Think about lighting a match. It might take a few tries. You can't blow on it too much or you extinguish the flame. Every person's hope is like that match light. What "women supporting women" means to me is coaxing that fledgling spark into a fiery and lasting light, rather than extinguishing it. It is easy to applaud a sister's success after hard work and struggle. It is far more rewarding to help her fan the flame.

We're coming Together in 2024!

Attending a Grand Convention is an experience like no other. Whether you're a voting delegate tasked with determining the future direction of our Fraternity, a member seeking leadership or Fraternity programming, or a Theta simply wanting to connect (or reconnect) with fellow members, there is something for you! Join us for Grand Convention July 11-14, 2024, at the beautiful Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, Md.

Grand Convention 2024's theme, *Together*, celebrates our shared values of scholarship, leadership, service, personal excellence, and friendship. We can accomplish much as individuals, but we can achieve greatness together.

Together, we lead!

Together, we love!

Together, we are Kappa Alpha Theta!

Visit **grandconvention.kappaalphatheta.org** to learn more.



Get excited for our special guests!



Karen Schultz Alter: Event Host

As CEO/partner of Borshoff, Karen Alter, Gamma/Butler, leads the agency's strategic direction, sales and marketing, management and operations, talent development and recruitment, and other key initiatives. Prior to her current role and for two decades, Karen provided senior-level counsel on advertising, branding, and marketing campaigns for the agency's largest clients.



Lisa Sun

Lisa Sun, founder and CEO of GRAVITAS, electrifies audiences with her moving, motivating, and empowering talks. Catalyzing confidence and inspiring innovation, she seamlessly blends stories from her personal journey with data and experience-driven insights from her 11 years at a global management consulting firm to offer talks that encourage audiences to choose self-confidence, work to harness their "superpower," and use gravitas to advance personally and professionally.



Danielle Bayard Jackson

Danielle Bayard Jackson is a friendship coach and educator who leverages her background as a high school teacher to share the latest research on women's communications, women's cooperation, and women's conflict. She is a leading voice in the conversation around relational health and a go-to media expert.

*Read much more about our special guests at grandconvention.kappaalphatheta.org > **Presenters.***

Planting Seeds for the Pansy Patch!

As always, you will have the opportunity to help support the great work of Theta Foundation by purchasing pansies through the always-favorite Pansy Patch! The patch will open in May 2024. Keep an eye out for more information in the coming months about how you can participate in Pansy Patch and empower Thetas to unleash their full potential!



Fond Memories

Nothing glows more brightly than gold; nothing shines more brilliantly than a diamond.

Each year, thousands of Thetas celebrate milestone anniversaries. We are pleased to share some of the warm sentiments our Diamond Thetas (75-year members) have shared with us in celebration of such memorable years.



I am wearing my 75-year pin with pride. Thank you for this crown of sisterhood.

Barbara Mitchell Mercer

Beta Gamma/Colorado State

It was a delightful surprise and pleasure to receive the pansy pin and card recognizing my many years as a Theta. I cherish those eventful years at UW in Madison, Wis. My sisters became lasting friends.

Mary Brenk Laudon

Psi/Wisconsin

Thank you for my 75-year pin of which I am very proud—a surprise for me. It seems truly extraordinary that after all these years away from Theta and Goucher that I should hear from...Theta sisters. I feel truly honored.

Sally O'Brien Hennessey

Alpha Delta/Goucher

Thank you for the beautiful pansy pin. I will wear it with pride. My four years at Penn State and as a Theta shaped my life. I thank you for your expression of love for me.

Clemens McMahan Fair

Beta Phi/Penn State



I was very honored to receive the Kappa Alpha Theta pin to commemorate my 75th anniversary. In retrospect, the years have gone quickly, and I still recall the excitement and pride of becoming a Theta.

Lorna Wood Connolly

Beta Chi/Alberta

Thank you so much for the recognition[.] I would like you to know that serving as president of... Alpha Chapter in 1949 was a true honor.

Sara Custer Downing

Alpha/DePauw

Curious About LIFE LOYAL?

When you become a Life Loyal member, you help fund educational, communications, and personal development programs for all Thetas. By becoming Life Loyal, you receive every printed issue of the *Theta Magazine*, Fraternity dues payments for life*, a handcrafted lapel pin, a personalized wallet card, and more. Here's how to enroll:



Online

Simply go to **thetalifeloyal.org** to join and pay online.



Mail

Print the enrollment form available at **thetalifeloyal.org** and mail the completed form with your check or credit card information to:

**Kappa Alpha Theta
attn: Angela Merk
8740 Founders Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46268**



Phone

Call Theta headquarters, **800-526-1870 ext. 140**, to provide your contact and payment information over the phone.

*Not including alumnae chapter dues.



KAPPA ALPHA THETA
Life Loyal

*Unsure about joining Life Loyal but want to support the next generation of Thetas? Pay your annual alumnae dues! Learn more at **kappaalphatheta.org/members/alumnae/support-the-next-generation**.*

BECOME A *Life Loyal* THETA!

These women enrolled between May 1 and July 31, 2023.

Beta/Indiana

Sara Flora Campbell

Gamma/Butler

Mary Woolling

Delta/Illinois

Debbie Paul Stewart
Harriet Daschka VerGowe

Eta/Michigan

Susan Blanch Meister

Iota/Cornell

Rebecca Voutiritsas

Kappa/Kansas

Lisa Smith Campbell
Lindy Sutherland Sands

Lambda/Vermont

Whitney Brown Jones

Rho/Nebraska

Bethany Victoria Bowen
Flynn
Maddie Murcek
Nikki Nutt Scott

Alpha Epsilon/Brown

Molly Shotwell Oelerich

Alpha Eta/Vanderbilt

Emily Zeller

**Alpha Iota/
Washington-St. Louis**

Margie Shaw Stoll

Alpha Mu/Missouri

Isabella Ferrentino
Fred Klug Holtzclaw

Alpha Omicron/Oklahoma

Heather Steele Curtis
Keely Garrett Smith

Alpha Tau/Cincinnati

Betty Ireland

Alpha Phi/Tulane

Michelle Kralj Bowen
Lyn Keller Hart
Cindy Matthews

Alpha Chi/Purdue

Carolyn Ashbaucher Bigler
Tricia Jonas Hackleman

Beta Pi/Michigan State

Tonya Mollis Frazier

**Gamma Nu/
North Dakota State**

Nancy Johnsen Olson
Ann Haroldson Specht
Lori Malmberg Tostenson

**Gamma Rho/
UC Santa Barbara**

Stacey Liakas Fell

**Gamma Sigma/
San Diego State**

Kim Lane Lawrence

Gamma Phi/Texas Tech

Amanda Foster Vyvlecka

Delta Epsilon/Arizona State

Abbie Peters

Delta Eta/Kansas State

Laura Blaine
Bailey Basinger Ramsey
Mavis Fairbanks Ziegler

Delta Kappa/LSU

Erica Martin Brown

Delta Nu/Arkansas

Karen Easson Shank

Delta Omicron/Alabama

Dawn Thompson Haviland

Delta Omega/Texas A&M

Cameron Thurston

Epsilon Epsilon/Baylor

Nancy Crosthwaite Nesbitt

Epsilon Zeta/Mississippi

Rosie Badgett

Epsilon Upsilon/Columbia

Brett Ashley Longoria Barth

**Epsilon Omega/
Washington & Jefferson**

Bri Bray

Zeta Iota/Washington & Lee

Charlotte Baker
Caroline Boone Mitchell

Zeta Omicron/Wake Forest

Lori Arthur Aveni

Snapshots



INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A Earlier this year, **Ann Andrews Thompson, Beta Zeta/Oklahoma State**, celebrated her 99th birthday with her Theta sisters. Pictured are **Maria Griffith DeLongy, Kappa/Kansas**; **Fran Swanstrom MacCollum, Alpha/DePauw**; **Kris Rydman Smith, Beta Epsilon/Oregon State**; **Jan Georgans LeNoble, Alpha Pi/North Dakota**; **Sue Peterson Westhafer, Delta Epsilon/Arizona State**; **Marilyn Miller, Delta Epsilon/Arizona State**; and **Bonnie Baldwin Kasten, Kappa/Kansas**, with Ann sitting in the front.

B In May, *The New York Times* shared an article titled “A Senior Tradition You Might Not Know About.” The article discusses the concept of senior cords: corduroy clothing—usually pants—as canvases for patches, illustrations, words and phrases, and other personal details that speak to their senior student’s owner. The article states, “Senior cords seem to have first appeared at Purdue University in Indiana in the early 1900s, according to an archivist at the university, and have evolved to become a sort of wearable yearbook for college and high school seniors in the state.” Earlier this year, we received this fabulous picture of **Ruth Crane Utti** in her own senior cords from her time as an **Alpha Chi Chapter** collegian at **Purdue University**.



C **Maddy Preston, Beta Kappa/Drake**, shared this about her favorite Theta memory: “My favorite memory in Theta was last year’s bid day! I was vice president education (VPE) so I got to plan how to welcome all our beautiful new members home and it was just the best day! I am so grateful for this chapter and all the people it has brought into my life.”



D In September 2022, alumnae from the 1970 new member class of **Alpha Rho Chapter** at the **University of South Dakota** gathered in the Black Hills area of South Dakota. This gathering marked celebrating several of their 70th birthdays. This group has been gathering every other year since 1984!

E **Rebecca Rolnick Knaack, Eta Sigma/Chapman**, submitted this photo of her and a group of fellow **Eta Sigma Chapter** alumnae who gather regularly each year for a holiday gift exchange and party. This year, they decided to level up and take a trip to San Miguel Allende, Mexico! Rebecca reflected, “With our big careers, partners, and children, it can be harder these days to take such a far-flung and extravagant trip so we did not take it for granted - we loved every minute and had a magical time staying together in a beautiful hacienda, exploring the cobblestone streets, dancing, making pottery, and eating amazing local food.” Pictured are **Eliot Spaulding Blair, Rebecca, Taryn Smith Gray, Beth Soltow, Rachel Tilghman, Stephanie Patterson Tobin, Sabrina Neas, and Deanna Blanchet**, all **Eta Sigma/Chapman**.





F The **Atlanta Alumnae Chapter** was selected as the Atlanta Alumnae Panhellenic Association's chapter of the year this past May! Pictured are **Heather Steen, Delta Nu/Arkansas; Connie Bambace Sadler, Gamma Phi/Texas Tech; Luann Wiley Miller, Gamma Delta/Georgia; Christa Dell Sobon, Delta Zeta/Emory; Rebekah Erwin, Delta Phi/Clemson; Peggy Cruce Jones, Gamma Delta/Georgia; Deborah Marcadis Caras, Delta Zeta/Emory; and Michelle Mouton Geiger, Delta Kappa/LSU.**

G Alumnae from the class of 1973 from **Gamma Phi Chapter at Texas Tech University** gathered in Fredericksburg, Tex., for their 50th reunion.

H This past May, the **Fresno Alumnae Chapter** welcomed recent graduates from **Gamma Chi Chapter at Fresno State University** to the alumnae side of Theta membership at their annual Senior Service Brunch.

I Alumnae from **Beta Gamma Chapter at Colorado State University** gathered for a reunion celebrating their collective 50th birthdays. Pictured from the "Scottsdale Shenanigans" weekend are **Pam Schmidt Trail, Amy Human Robinson, Tracy Ruhl Pederson, Carmen Feterl Bradbury, Heidi Sieber, Laura Wilson Zlogar, Cathy Fry McCague, Lisa Walsh Crotty, Bridgett Eichacker, and Erin Hayden Wolfurst, all Beta Gamma/Colorado State.**



J The **Columbus Alumnae Chapter** held its Spring Potluck earlier this year, their last meeting of the academic year. Pictured are **Felicity Hillmer, Beta Tau/Denison; Demi Johnson, Beta Tau/Denison; Nicola Henderson, Eta Mu/Occidental; Gloria Lombardi, Alpha Gamma/Ohio State; Jessica Rannow, Psi/Wisconsin; Heidi Locker-Scheer, Psi/Wisconsin; Laurie McGregor Connor, Gamma deutron/Ohio Wesleyan; and Bev Payne Epps, Gamma Upsilon/Miami.**

K Graduating seniors from **Phi Chapter** at **University of the Pacific** captured this lovely photo in celebration of their graduation.

L Members from the 1980 and 1981 new member classes of **Beta Zeta Chapter** at **Oklahoma State University** gathered this past summer and flew kites on the Oklahoma State library lawn, just like their college years.



M **Caroline Buckheit, Beta/Indiana**, shared with us this lovely photo of her and her Theta sisters graduating from **Indiana University** earlier this year.

N **Beta Xi Chapter at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)** won several awards at their campus' Panhellenic Awards Dinner earlier this year. Awards included Highest GPA for the Academic Year, Outstanding Panhellenic Delegate (**Grace Hinckley, Beta Xi/UCLA**), and Advisor of the Year (**Cathie Waters Cardelucci, Beta Xi/UCLA**).

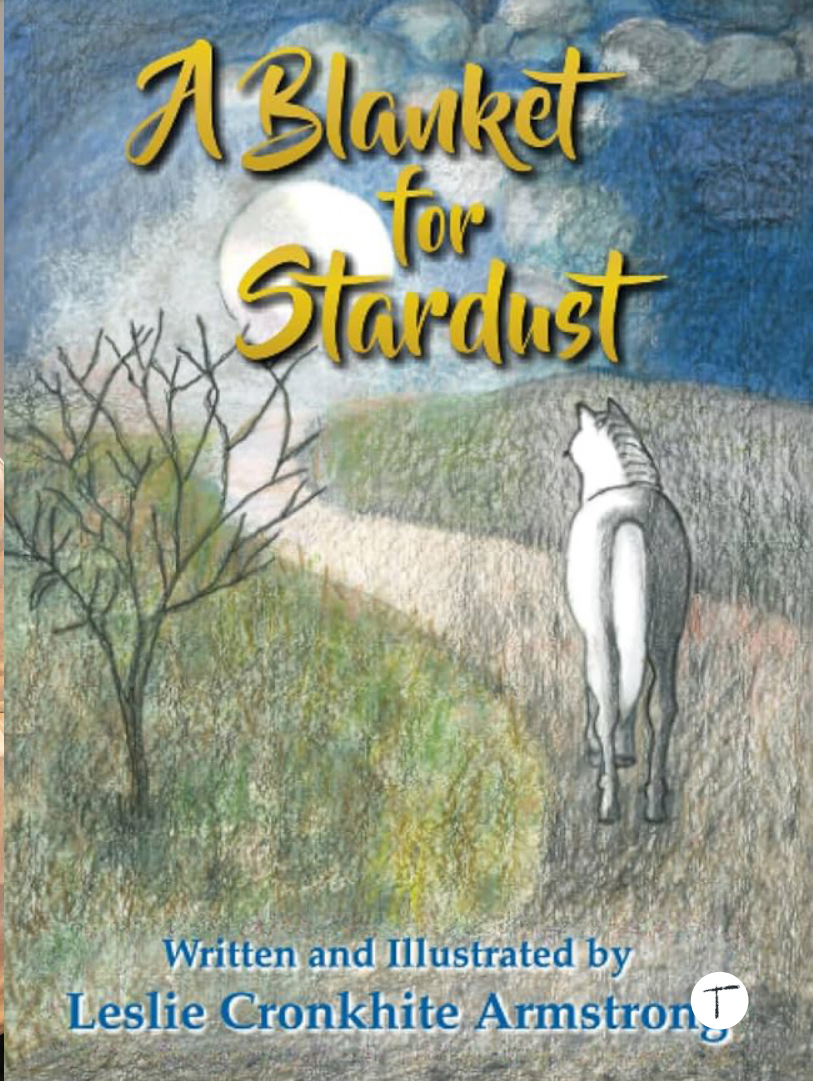
O Several alumnae from the early 1960s new member classes of **Alpha Rho Chapter at the University of South Dakota** gathered in Kansas for their biannual reunion, enjoying museums, a botanical garden, and lots of stories. Pictured are **Jane Shanard, Suzanne Hanson, Karen Rabusch Pekas, Marti Stilwell Peterson, Dessie Kuster Severson, Julie Argetsinger Nicholson, Marcia Blaseg Ridley, Kathy Mitchell Weisz, Pam Johnson Whorley, and Katie Johnson Howe**, all **Alpha Rho/South Dakota**.



P The **Omaha Alumnae Chapter** gathered for a pickleball lesson at BlueSky Pickleball in Omaha, Neb. The group enjoyed a general lesson, learned the rules of the game, and had an hour to play together.

Q **Caroline Olesky, Eta Chi/Boston**, visited her sister and former roommate, **Caroline Floam, Eta Chi/Boston**, in Washington, D.C., over Memorial Day weekend.

R This past spring, alumnae from the 1976 and 1980 new member classes from **Alpha Theta Chapter** at **University of Texas-Austin** had the same idea to gather for reunions!



S Earlier this year, nearly 80 Thetas gathered at their alma mater, **University of Arkansas**, for the inaugural reunion of **Delta Nu Chapter** members. The reunion drew Delta Nu Chapter alumnae from all around the country, plus Canada and Mexico! They toured their former chapter house, received updates on Panhellenic life, and learned about the CASA of Northwest Arkansas's impact on young lives. Reunion attendees collected donations in cash, checks, and gift cards, plus sports equipment and toys, for CASA. Pictured are the event's primary organizers, **Helene Pascale Wommack** and **Pris Jeffers Read**, both **Delta Nu/Arkansas**.



AUTHORS

T **Leslie Cronkhite Armstrong, Beta Theta/Idaho**, released *A Blanket for Stardust*, an early-reader chapter book filled with loyalty, hope, and determination. It's a story that will appeal to animal lovers of all ages.



The Audition

POEMS OF LONGING, LIMBO, AND RESTORATION

Jack the Dog



By: Sara Adams

U **Nancy Jane Coombs, Tau/Northwestern,** published *The Audition: Poems of Longing, Limbo, and Restoration*. This collection of poetry proves the power of words, conveying human yearning for connection and reconciliation. The poetry's driving, musical quality has an evocative urgency and is immersive with a touch of the absurd.

V **Sara DeLongy Adams, Beta Sigma/SMU,** authored *Jack the Dog*, a story about her own family dog that was rehomed to a neighbor that took great care of Jack and gave him a wonderful life. The book offers a simple and positive message paired with bright and youthful illustrations, making it an easy favorite for kids of all ages.



JUST TAKE A

Moment

We'd love to hear from you, and we'd love to share what fun you're up to with your Theta sisters. We invite you to just take a moment to submit a "Snapshot" for an upcoming issue of the *Theta Magazine*. Send us a photo with personal or professional news, of past travels, virtual or in-person reunions, or a photo depicting a cherished Theta experience or memory. There's no news too small, and we think everything Thetas do is newsworthy!

WANT TO GO A STEP FURTHER?

Help us visually portray Theta authentically and inclusively. Representation matters, and it is important to us that Theta's materials reflect the diverse identities of our members. The activities below are just some that we'd love to receive more photos of:


- Virtual events, including reunions, group events, and get-togethers;
- CASA/GAL, philanthropy, and service involvement; and
- Candid (unposed!) sisterhood photos.

HOW TO SUBMIT:

- Online via the Theta website: www.kappaalphatheta.org/contact
- Email marketing@kappaalphatheta.org

NOTE:

Digital photos must be shot at the highest quality possible and submitted at the largest size possible. Please don't crop, retouch, filter, or edit in any way.

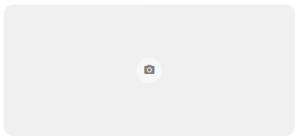


EVENTS

Use ThetaConnect to Keep Your Planning Organized

Post event

Upload an image or Choose generic image *



Name *

Location

Link to event URL

Start date *

Event ID

End date *

Registration options

☒ Internal RSVP

☐ External registration via URL

☐ Registration form embedded in description

PLANNING & POSTING EVENTS

In ThetaConnect, you can advertise and publicize your event by filling out the relevant information on the **Post event** form under **Events**.

You can target exactly who you want to invite by using the advanced filters after ensuring that **Do you want to invite an audience?** is toggled on. When you're ready, just click on **POST** on the bottom of the page and your event will be public to your audience. Your event will also be searchable on the calendar feature in **Events** so users can search for it by date.

Champagne Day (aka NYE)

December 31, 2023

REGISTER

January is NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

January 1-31, 2024

REGISTER

2023-2024 Q3 Individual Grant Application

January 17, 2024

REGISTER

FINDING EVENTS

ThetaConnect is a great place to find events that you may be interested in attending. You can search by date or location.

Events posted on the Event Board can be in-person or virtual, which will be noted in the location of the event. When you have found an event you are interested in, select **REGISTER**.



▲ Beta Delta/Arizona



▲ Fresno Alumnae Chapter



▲ Beta Tau/Denison

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ThetaCONNECT

40 Years at 8740

Sept. 18, 2023, marked the 40th anniversary of the dedication of Theta's headquarters in Indianapolis, Ind. More familiarly known as 8740 Founders Rd., the building is home to the offices that support Theta members and chapters across the U.S. and Canada.

Theta headquarters was located within several offices prior to 1983, but those spaces were either in someone's home or rented. The first office was in the home of L. Pearl Green, executive secretary from 1901-1939, in Ithaca, N.Y. For L. Pearl, working out of her home offered a few issues because she had to notify members not to send items to her address marked "special delivery;" The special delivery packages would often arrive in the middle of the night and awaken the entire household!

In 1939, an office was established on Wacker Drive in downtown Chicago, Ill. The office moved to Evanston, Ill., in the 1950s. By the 1970s,

Grand Council sought to establish a more permanent office, a home of our own.

Indianapolis was chosen as the new location of what was then known as Central Office. As former Fraternity President Lissa Bradford, Alpha Eta/Vanderbilt, stated in her dedication address, Theta was "home at last" with Greencastle, DePauw University, and our founding chapter only 50 miles to the west. An extensive fundraising campaign among members provided the support to build a facility that not only offered business space for both the Fraternity and Theta Foundation, but also training rooms, archival storage, and sleeping quarters for visiting volunteers and others. With the move to Indianapolis, Theta joined other fraternity and sorority headquarters in the area.



We welcome visitors to headquarters! For more information, check out Theta Headquarters & Heritage Museum page of the Theta website (www.kappaalphatheta.org/about-us/theta-headquarters-and-heritage-museum) to schedule a visit and learn more about the area.



Over the years, a few changes have been made to the building, expanding space for the Fraternity, Theta Foundation, and the Fraternity Housing Corporation (FHC). While we no longer offer sleeping space in the building, it still provides meeting space for Theta's three boards and various committees. Exhibit space has also been expanded to share the history of Theta and North American fraternities and sororities in the Heritage Museum.

Even in the changing environment of hybrid and remote work of staff, 8740 Founders Rd. remains a touchstone for Theta members.

This article was originally published as a blog on the Theta website.



Theta's 2023 Gift Guide

Nearing the holidays and end of the year, many of us give presents to our loved ones. If your loved one is a Theta, look no further! Each of the items featured is sold by a different licensed vendor and is available at shopkappaalphatheta.com. This guide features great gifts for all the Thetas in your life: some bling for the jewelry lover to update her badge, a lettered hoodie for the new Theta who joined this past year, a beanie or blanket for the sister living in a colder climate, and much more.



1

**Ivy league Sweatshirt
from Greek House - \$36.99**

**Floral Alumna Comfort Colors Sorority
T-shirt from Kite and Crest - \$22.95**

2



**Blue with Blue text tee from
Spikes and Seams - \$28.00**

3





4

Sticker pack from Kali Bear Co. - \$11.00



5

Dainty Circle Necklace from Sorority Things - \$18.96



6

Bubble Embroidered Beanie from Go Greek Chic - \$22.00



7

Gold Letters Skinny Tumbler from Uptown Greek - \$16.00



8

Stylish Checkered Blanket from Sorority Shop - \$49.99



9

Hoodie and T-shirt from GreekGear

Hoodie - \$34.95

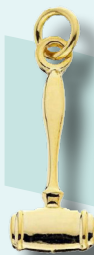
T-shirt - \$28.99

10

Badge items

Plain double letter guard, gold plated - \$27.00

Gold plated dangle - \$16.00



president dangle



alumnae dangle



leadership dangle



guard chain

J. Lewis Small is the official jeweler for Kappa Alpha Theta badges and accessories. They have many different badges on their website (kappaalphathetajewelry.com), as well as badge guards and dangles to personalize a Theta badge.

ICYMI...

Theta's social media channels cover so much stuff like organization updates, event reminders, and lots of sister memories and members' stories. Catch up here, but be sure to follow us on Instagram (@kappaalphathetahq), Facebook (Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity), and LinkedIn (Kappa Alpha Theta Headquarters) so that you stay in the loop!



Bid Day

Collegians and alumnae welcomed new members in the comments!

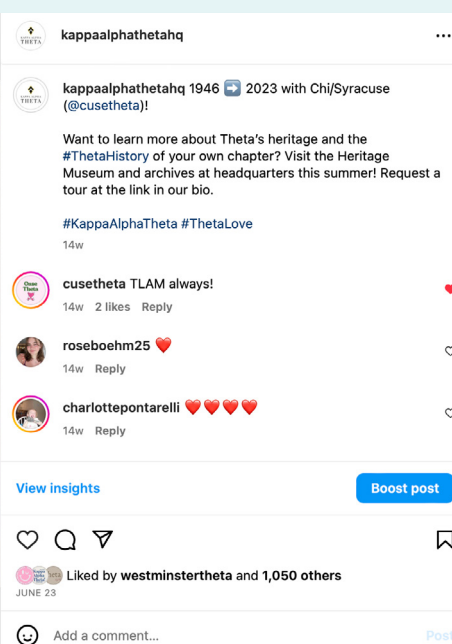
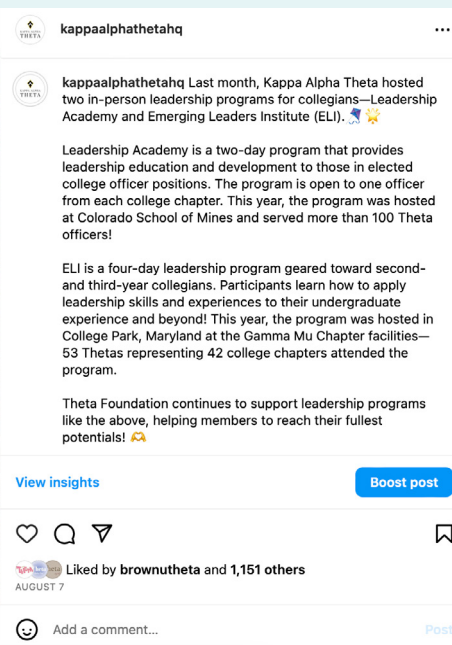
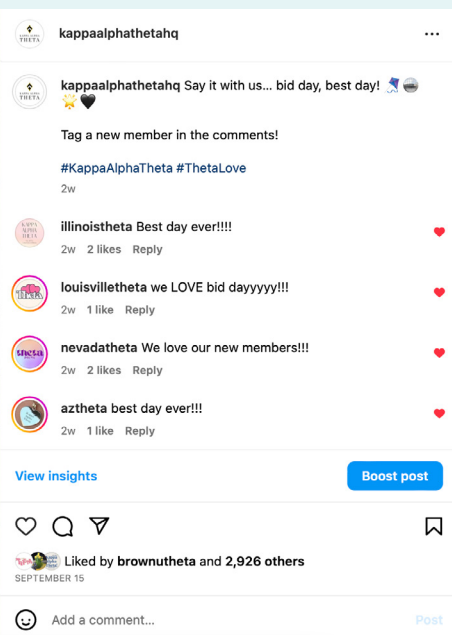


Leadership Programs

Participants from Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI) and Leadership Academy shared their experiences in the comments!



Chi Chapter's Nod to the Past



ΓΦ Reunion

Marin's #ThetaLoveThursday Story
 Marin Hefner, Gamma Delta/Georgia, shared her love for Theta on our Instagram! (This post is our best performing #ThetaLoveThursday post so far this year with more than 2,000 likes!)



Theta's jewelry website, **kappaalphathetajewelry.com**, is your official place to get badges, dangles, guards, and so much more!



Visit **shopkappaalphatheta.com** for all your official Theta merchandise needs!



Cheers!



Toast to the holiday season with your favorite Theta wines!

Whether you're buying gifts for others or treating yourself, make sure you take advantage of the delicious wines from Black & Gold Napa Valley. For this holiday season, you can customize a 3D wooden holiday card with a special message. Visit blackandgoldnapa.com!



Voices

Even in the changing environment of hybrid and remote work of staff, 8740 Founders Rd. remains a touchstone for Theta members.

"40 Years at 8740"
(See page 28.)

It is easy to applaud a sister's success after hard work and struggle. It is far more rewarding to help her fan the flame.

TJ Flynn Condon
Epsilon Lambda/Dickinson
(See page 11.)

The real question is, "Why NOT now?"

Kathy Bruning Bussing
Kappa/Kansas
(See page 8.)

When Thetas need help, Thetas are there. It's as simple as that.

Erica D'Angelo Ochs
Eta Nu/Lake Forest
(See page 6.)

I am wearing my 75-year pin with pride. Thank you for this crown of sisterhood.

Barbara Mitchell Mercer
Beta Gamma/Colorado State
(See page 14.)